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12-1-2003

# GSUniverse, 2003-12-01

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### Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Public Affairs, GSUniverse (2003, December 1). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuniverse/71>

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# GSU nAverse

## Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

December 1 – 5, 2003

Published by the Office of Public Affairs

*"I . . . begin with the principle that all men are bores. Surely no one will prove himself so great a bore as to contradict me in this."*

Søren Kierkegaard

### *Invited One and All*

***The University Community is invited to attend GSU's Holiday Reception on Friday, December 12, from 4 – 5:30 p.m. in the Hall of Governors.***

***(A time to share: Adult and children's coats, scarves, boots, mittens, and school supplies donated at the reception will be distributed to families in Ford Heights.)***

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#### **Trustees Get Straight Scoop from Faculty and Students**

GSU trustees met recently with faculty representatives and on Friday met with the Student Senate. They will meet with the Civil Service Senate on January 26. Chairman Bruce Friefeld said that the meetings give the board insight into what's happening in the university and help trustees shape policy. Faculty expressed concern over several issues including the impact of the state's budget cuts for higher education and the lack of civility in some areas. The trustees told the faculty that securing additional state funding for faculty salary increases was a priority in the upcoming legislative session. Students also expressed concern over the impact of the budget cuts on class offerings and, like the faculty, the lack of civility in some areas.

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#### **Online Business Degree Program Launches in January**

The College of Business and Public Administration has completed work on a new online business degree. The Bachelor of Arts in Business and Applied Science (formerly bandied about as B-Tech) was approved by UCC and APRC on November 18. "CPBA faculty and staff have done a remarkable job with this," said CBPA Dean William Nowlin. "From Jun Zhao's original proposal, Dick Finkley and Akkanad Isaac pushed the course development and kept it on track. Bonnie Lunde put the UCC/APRC package together, and now we can move forward." The college will begin offering the courses at the start of the winter trimester January 5.

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#### **ScholarShip Sails On: Management**

Dr. Jun Zhao, professor of Management, presented "Using Group-Based Simulation in Online Management Education" at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual DSI (Decision Science Institute) Meeting, in Washington, D.C. last month. Zhao's presentation explained her research on the usage of simulation in online management education.

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#### **ScholarShip Sails On: Health Administration**

Dr. Kyusuk Chung, university professor of Health Administration, has co-authored "Toward Efficient Medication Error Reduction: Error-Reducing Information Management Systems" with Drs. Young B. Choi and Sangho Moon. The article is published in the December 2003 issue of the Journal of Medical Systems. Chung also presented "Do Caregivers Matter as to a Good Death When the Elderly Die?" at the American Public Health Association 131st Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Francisco in November.

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#### **ScholarShip Sails On: Student Development**

Director of Student Development Kelly McCarthy's article "Innovative Collaboration: Transforming a University's Orientation Program" has been published in the fall issue of The Journal of College Orientation and Transition. McCarthy's article details the inception and implementation of the university's online

orientation with directed self-placement in math and English. One sobering piece of information presented in the article: under the previous, voluntary orientation system, a mere 30 percent of undergraduate students attended an orientation session, leaving 70 percent of the undergraduate population only tangentially aware of the university procedures and services. McCarthy also writes about the difficulties proficiency testing created for students and the solution directed self-placement presents. McCarthy writes that under directed self-placement, "the process becomes empowering and holds students accountable for their own learning." McCarthy credits university-wide cooperation with the project's fast 18-month turn-around.

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### **ScholarShip Sails On: Counseling**

Dr. Jon Carlson, professor of Psychology and Counseling, directed the First International Workshop in Counseling Psychology in Thailand last month. The five day event was held on the campus of Assumption University near Bangkok and had over 100 participants. This is Carlson's third trip to Thailand, where he is collaborating with Drs. Tipa Emvardhana, of Thamasset University, and Jean Barry, of Assumption, to create a Ph.D. in Counseling for several Thailand universities, including Assumption. Carlson said, "I believe that the Thai culture creates a perfect environment for the development of counselors. Thailand is known as the 'land of smiles,' and its people are very people-oriented, other-focused, compassionate, and caring." He will return in 2004 to train aspiring counseling psychologists as well as nurses and physicians. "Counseling," Carlson explained, "is provided by several different professional groups in Thailand, so the training crosses into many fields."

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### **Home Rule Explained**

Dr. John Swain recently conducted a presentation on "home rule" for the Homewood-Flossmoor League of Women Voters at the Homewood Public Library. The event was well-attended, with more than 40 audience members. Home rule, Swain explained, is a legal status that allows municipalities more legal power and flexibility.

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### ***From the Archives***

Faze 1, December 2, 1974: "COMMUNICATIONS SHIFTS...Effective Jan. 1, 1975, MEL MUCHNIK will leave his position as Director of Communications to join the full time faculty of the College of Cultural Studies to assist development of mass media studies in the Popular Culture program of the College. At the same time, RICK ISAACSON will shift from HLD to the CCS mass media area of Popular Culture. The concentration of media (mass media, mass communication, journalism) within CCS was recommended by the Intercollegiate Task Force on Communications chaired by Dr. Muchnik and responded to favorably by the Academic Vice President. An Acting Director of Communications will be announced shortly and a search committee will be established to permanently fill the position. MEL MUCHNIK joined GSU just before it opened for classes in August, 1971 as the first Director of Communications in both CCS and CHLD at GSU. Prior to coming to GSU, he served on the faculty of the Department of Mass Communications at the University of Denver for seven years and has been involved in radio and television professionally. He has been teaching about four learning modules a year. He will continue to chair the University's Dedication Committee and continue for a time to write and edit Faze 1.